

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated January 30, 2003, within the three-month period for response. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the subject Office Action, the specification was objected to because the Abstract exceeded 150 words, and because the term "Drawings" was unnecessarily capitalized throughout the specification. Moreover, claims 1-14, 16-18, and 20-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,956,665 to Martinez et al.; claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martinez et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,167,358 to Othmer et al.; and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martinez et al. and Designing the User Interface (Shneiderman).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections to the extent that they are maintained.

Applicants have amended the Abstract and the paragraphs on pages 4, line 23, and 6, line 10 of the specification to overcome the Examiner's objections as noted above. In addition, Applicants have now amended claim 42. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added by the above amendments, as the amendments are fully supported in the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that Form PTO-892 was not included with the Office Action as indicated on the Office Action Summary. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner include a copy of the 892 form that accompanied the January 30, 2003 Office Action in his next communication.

Now turning to the Office Action, with regard to the specification, the Examiner indicated that the Abstract contained more than 150 words and that the term "Drawings" was unnecessarily capitalized throughout the specification. Accordingly, Applicants have

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amended the specification as outlined above as the Examiner required. Withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Next, with respect to the claim rejections, and more specifically to the rejection of independent claim 1, this claim generally recites a method of managing computer hardware components. The method includes displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display, where the pictorial representation is associated with a plurality of hardware components and represents a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components, and indicating a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components.

Applicants respectfully submit that Martinez et al. fails to disclose or suggest each and every aspect of claim 1.

In particular, Martinez et al. fails to disclose or suggest the indication of a selected status for multiple hardware components displayed in a pictorial representation of a plurality of hardware components. The passages cited by the Examiner, at column 1, lines 30-33, column 2, lines 48-53, and Fig. 6, fail to disclose the display of a selected status of multiple hardware components. Moreover, it is evident from a reading of the remainder of the Martinez et al. reference that the selection of only individual, single hardware components is contemplated. For example, column 3, lines 1 and 66 refer to controlling "one of the components." Moreover, the disclosure starting at column 11, line 30, which details the feature of providing user control of a hardware component, refers to only the selection of a single component.

Given that Martinez et al. does not clearly disclose the selection of multiple hardware components, and an indication of the selected status for such components, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is novel over the reference.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is also non-obvious over the reference, as there is no suggestion in the reference to modify the disclosed

configuration to support the selection of multiple components. For example, Fig. 9 of Martinez et al., and the accompanying disclosure at column 12, lines 7-50, again refers only to the initiation of a logical operation on a single component. There is no suggestion in the reference of applying logical operations to multiple components, and as a result, there would be no suggestion to display a selected status for multiple such components.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that it is more than a routine modification to support the control of multiple components. Martinez et al., for example, utilizes an event-driven interface whereby logical operations are passed to hardware components via events. The issuance of multiple such events to multiple components in response to user input would be more than a minor modification to the Martinez et al. system.

Applicants respectfully submit that a modification of Martinez et al. to support the display of a selected status for multiple hardware components would require the use of hindsight, and thus would not be sufficient for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Claim 1 is therefore novel and non-obvious over Martinez et al. and the other prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1, as well as of claims 2-22 which depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

Next, with respect to independent claims 23, 40, and 42, claims 23 and 40 recite the indication of a selected status for multiple hardware components in a pictorial representation of a plurality of hardware components. Moreover, claim 42 has been amended to recite the performance of a management operation on multiple selected hardware components among a plurality of hardware components displayed in a pictorial representation of the same.¹

As described above in connection with claim 1, the indication of a selected status, as well as the performance of a management operation, on multiple selected hardware

¹ Claim 42 has also been amended to correct the duplicate labeling of the second and third recited steps.

components, is not disclosed or suggested by Martinez et al. or any of the other prior art of record. Accordingly, each of claims 23, 40, and 42 is novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record for the same reasons presented above for claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims, as well as of claims 24-39, 41, and 43 which depend therefrom, are therefore respectfully requested.

As a final matter, Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejections of the dependent claims based upon the dependence of these claims upon the aforementioned independent claims. However, Applicants also note that a number of these claims recite additional subject matter that further distinguishes these claims from the prior art of record. For example, claims 5, 27, and 43 each additionally recite selecting hardware components that are associated with attributes that match a filter criterion applied to the plurality of hardware components. As such, these claims permit multiple hardware components to be selected based upon a filter criterion. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner relies on Martinez et al., column 2, lines 59-65. However, Applicants can find no relevance to these passages in terms of the selection of multiple hardware components. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is simply not disclosed or suggested by Martinez et al., and therefore, claims 5, 27, and 43 are additionally patentable for the reasons presented above.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the foregoing, or which might otherwise further this case onto allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at (513) 241-2324. Moreover, if any other charges or credits

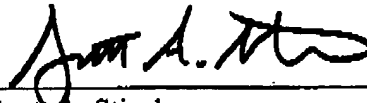
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are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account
23-3000.

29 APRIL 2003

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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